

January 27, 2003

TO: County contact

RE: 8-hour Ozone Early Action State Implementation Plan

As you are aware your county is participating in the 8-hour ozone Early Action State Implementation Plan process. Signing *South Carolina's 8-hour Ozone Early Action Compact* (EAC) by December 31, 2002, was the first of several milestones that had to be met to ensure participation. You have been identified as the primary contact for this process in your county. If this is not correct please let me know.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control's (Department's) Air Program is committed to work closely with each local area throughout the planning and implementation process. At a minimum, the Department will provide the necessary emissions inventories and modeling processes and other technical assistance needed to determine what local and/or state control strategies are needed to ensure attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard by December 31, 2007, and beyond.

As requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department submitted the local compacts in grouped areas. While non-attainment boundary determinations for the 8-hour ozone standard have not been completed, we felt the best way to address this request was to identify the areas by the respective Council of Government (COG) boundaries. Because of the time constraints surrounding this process, we have scheduled our initial meeting with each county at their respective COG. A list of the dates and times of these meetings along with other information to help you prepare for these meetings can be found in the following attachments:

Attachment 1 - *South Carolina's 8-hour Ozone Early Action Compact* – We have included a copy of the signed compact for your reference. *(Provided we have a copy before this letter is sent – if not, we will include the “blank” copy)*

Attachment 2 - *COG Areas* – A listing of the dates and times scheduled for each of the meetings. If there is a scheduling conflict with your meeting date, we ask that you consider attending another meeting that best fits your schedule. Please contact Melinda Mathias (803-898-3269 or mathiamc@dhec.sc.gov) to let us know who will be attending the meeting.

Attachment 3 - *Schedule of Required Steps toward submitting an Early Action State Implementation Plan* - This schedule is taken from the EAC and includes the “key” milestones identified by EPA as required for participation. As long as all terms of the EAC and “key” milestones are

being met, EPA has agreed to defer the effective date of the non-attainment designation.

Attachment 4 - *Working DRAFT Outline for Local Early Action Plans* - As required by the EAC, each county must develop and implement a local early action plan that promotes the area's attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard by December 31, 2007, and maintenance until at least 2012. The working DRAFT includes minimum information to be included in a local plan.

Attachment 5 - *Air Quality Improvement Tools for Local Government* - The local areas must adopt local controls necessary to demonstrate attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard by December 31, 2007. The attached listing of air quality improvement tools contains suggested measures that may be adopted by the local area. Each local area must decide what is best for its respective area. Recognizing the varied characteristics within each county, not all measures can or necessarily should be implemented by each county. You may also come up with some different strategies as well.

Attachment 6 - *Local Emissions* - Contains a listing of the precursor ground-level ozone pollutants with their respective source category and amounts for your county.

Attachment 7 - *Ozone and Your Health* - A brochure explaining what ozone is and how it impacts our health and the environment.

While we realize a lot of information is attached, we felt that it was best to provide it to you as soon as possible. We look forward to working with each of you over the next several years and are excited about the partnerships that will be established as we work together to provide cleaner air sooner for South Carolina. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 898-3260 or by E-mail at phillimh@dhec.sc.gov. You can also visit our website for additional information at www.scdhec.net/baq/eap.html.

Sincerely,

Henry Phillips, Manager
Air Assessment & Planning Section
Bureau of Air Quality
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

cc: Council of Governments
EQC District Directors (w/out attachments)